

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 ( ISO ) W

----- 062819

R 041230Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3099

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T CAIRO 6016

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING PAST WEEK EGYPTIAN-SOVIET DIALOGUE HAS BEEN NOTICEABLY MORE ACTIVE THAN USUAL. SADAT'S PUBLIC CRITICISM IN MAY 1 SPEECH WAS ALSO MORE MUTED THAN USUAL (CAIRO 5933) AND SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO STRESS, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, THAT EGYPT WANTS NORMAL RELATIONS WITH USSR IF SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO RECIPROCATE. RECENT ABROGATION OF EGYPTIAN-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, THEY HAVE ARGUED, SHOULD NOT BE READ AS ANYTHING MORE THAN GETTING RID OF AN UNHELPFUL IMPEDIMENT TO RELATIONS.

2. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE (CAIRO 5811), MINTRADE ZAKARIA TEWFIK FINALLY TRAVELLED TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK TO SIGN LONG DELAYED EGYPTIAN-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 1976. MINTRADE ALSO INDICATED GOE'S DESIRE TO SIGN A FIVE-YEAR TRADE PROTOCOL WITH SOVIETS LATER THIS YEAR. SOVIET REACTION NOT KNOWN.

3. QUITE UNEXPECTEDLY, DEPRIMIN/MINWAR GAMASY WAS SENT ON ONE-DAY TRIP TO MOSCOW APRIL 29 TO BE PRINCIPAL EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT GRECHKO FUNERAL. DESPATCH

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OF SUCH RANKING EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL WAS INTENDED BY GOE

AS A POLITICAL GESTURE TO THE SOVIETS IN SUPPORT OF  
AVOWED EGYPTIAN DESIRE FOR NORMAL RELATIONS. ACCORDING  
TO FAHMY, PRESIDENT INITIALLY OPPOSED SENDING GAMASY  
BUT, HE FAHMY, HAD PERSUADED SADAT THAT GOE HAD NOTHING  
TO LOSE AND EVERYTHING TO GAIN BY SUCH A GESTURE. IN  
FAHMY'S VIEW, SOVIETS APPRECIATED GESTURE, ALTHOUGH  
NOTHING CONCRETE CAME OUT OF THE QUICK VISIT.

4. FOR PAST WEEK SOVIET AMB POLYAKOV HAS BEEN ACTIVE.  
FOUR DAYS AGO HE MET WITH FAHMY FOR THREE AND A HALF  
HOURS. FAHMY HAS BEEN CHARY ABOUT PROVIDING DETAILS,  
BUT CLAIMED HE HAD SPENT MOST OF THE TIME GIVING POLYAKOV  
"HELL" FOR SOVIET FAULTURE TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO  
EGYPT'S NEEDS. HE HAD TAXED POLYAKOV THAT SOVIET LEADER-  
SHIP APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN TREATY ABROGATION AS PERSONAL  
AFFRONT, WHICH WAS NEVER INTENDED. AS SOVIETS SHOULD  
RECALL, BREZHNEV HAD VIRTUALLY IMPOSED THE TREATY ON  
SADAT IN 1971 AT A TIME WHEN SADAT WAS STILL WEAK. FOR  
THEIR OWN REASONS, SOVIETS HAD NEVER FULFILLED THE TREATY.  
HENCE, IT HAD BECOME REDUNDANT AND A USELESS IRRITANT.  
BOTH COUNTRIES ARE BETTER OFF WITH THE TREATY  
OUT OF THE WAY. GOE WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS IF  
LATTER RECIPROCATES. IF FAHMY IS TO BE BELIEVED,  
POLYAKOV AND SOVIET EMBASSY STAFF ALSO WANT GOOD RELATIONS  
WITH EGYPT AND ARE PUZZLED ABOUT SHARP REACTION ON PART  
OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP.

5. ASKED IF SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD GIVEN HIM COPY  
OF LATEST SOVIET STATEMENT ON GENEVA, FAHMY SAID YES.  
STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON  
SOVIET STATEMENT AND CHANGED THE SUBJECT. LAST EVENING,  
HIS CHEF DE CABINET, USAMA AL-BAZ, TOLD AMB THE BULK OF  
THE FAHMY-POLYAKOV MEETING HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO A  
DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT. FAHMY HAD  
INDICATED THAT SOVIET STATEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH GOE  
VIEW THAT GENEVA SHOULD BE RECONVENED SOONEST  
WITH PLO PARTICIPATION, BUT HAD NOTED IT IS UP TO THE  
SOVIETS TO SELL THEIR IDEA. HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED  
DOUBT THAT EITHER USG OR ISRAEL WILL AGREE.

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6. YESTERDAY, TOO, POLYAKOV MET GAMASY, THE FIRST SUCH  
MEETING SINCE A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE TREATY ABROGATION  
ANNOUNCEMENT ON MARCH 14. WE SURMISE POLYAKOV WAS  
INSTRUCTED THANK GAMASY FOR ATTENDING GRECHKO FUNERAL,  
BUT HAVE NO INFO AT PRESENT WHETHER ANY SUBSTANTIVE  
MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED.

7. POLYAKOV ALSO MET YESTERDAY WITH FAHMY, FOR THE

SECOND TIME IN A WEEK. MEETING WAS AT FAHMY'S  
INITIATIVE TO ADVISE SOVIETS OF EGYPTIAN CALL FOR  
UNSC MEETING TO DISCUSS WEST BANK INCIDENTS AND TO  
REQUEST SOVIET SUPPORT. TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS MEETING  
LASTED ONE AND A QUARTER HOURS AND WAS INTENDED  
COMPLETE PREVIOUS LENGTHY MEETING. ON LEAVING  
SOVIET AMB TOLD PRESS THAT CONTINUOUS CONTACTS WILL BE  
UNDERTAKEN IN CAIRO TO "ACTIVATE" THE RELATIONS BETWEEN  
THE TWO COUNTRIES.  
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## Message Attributes

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